

# Measuring Student Learning

Creating the Next Generation of Assessments



Wisconsin has embarked on education reforms to help every child graduate ready for college and career. Part of this effort is improving our ability to measure each child's progress toward that goal.

Currently, students in our public schools demonstrate their knowledge by taking the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations (WKCE) or the Wisconsin Alternative Assessment (WAA-SwD) in grades 3-8 and 10. The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) will replace these traditional tests with next-generation assessments beginning with the 2014-15 school year.

We are developing this complete system of assessments through our work with three different multi-state efforts. The new tests will differ from their predecessors in some important ways:

- Students will take them on a computer, which will select questions based on their answers to previous questions. The result is a more complete picture of each student's learning. These "computer adaptive" assessments also provide rapid feedback to improve teaching and learning.

- The assessments will use a wider variety of items and tasks than traditional multiple choice tests, so students can demonstrate not only their knowledge of facts, but also analytical and problem solving skills—two things needed to be college and career ready.
- The new assessment system will measure student progress at the end of the year as well as include optional assessments to be used throughout the year. These will provide feedback that teachers, students, and families can use to improve teaching and learning.
- The assessments will be used to evaluate students not only on their achievement at a single point in time, but also how their achievement has grown over time.

**New state assessments will measure student learning in multiple ways and against higher standards, while providing helpful feedback throughout the year.**

The DPI is seeking resources to help schools expand the use of the ACT college entrance exam, as well as the EXPLORE and PLAN assessments which help students in earlier grades chart a course for high school and beyond.

Redesigning our state assessment system is one of many changes aimed at ensuring every child a graduate, college and career ready.

For more information go to:  
[dpi.wi.gov/oea/sbac.html](http://dpi.wi.gov/oea/sbac.html)